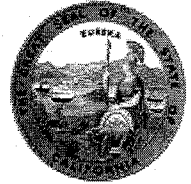




SANDRA SHEWRY
Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Services



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

March 18, 2005

**TO: MATERNAL, CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH (MCAH)
DIRECTORS
BLACK INFANT HEALTH (BIH) COORDINATORS**

**SUBJECT: BLACK INFANT HEALTH (BIH) PROGRAM CLARIFICATION
PROGRAM POLICY ALERT #2004/05-04**

This correspondence is provided in response to the productive dialogue during the November 2004, Black Infant Health (BIH) Contractors' meeting. It supports and clarifies previously issued BIH Policy Directives.

Quantity

Each BIH local site is to serve 25 percent of the live births to African American women, in their respective city or county in California. The agreed upon target population for BIH is African-American pregnant and parenting women, 18 years and older who are at risk for adverse birth outcomes.

The attached matrix identifies specific numeric goals assigned to each jurisdiction in order to increase program growth and lives touched. Given the fiscal challenges and limitations faced by both State and local governments, we will agree to grant an extended period of time in order to accomplish the 25 percent directive. The BIH Program is challenged to increase the population of live births served from the current eight percent (2,017) to 25 percent (6,561). We expect this directive to be accomplished over a period of three years, effective July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2007.

The matrix has 6 columns:

Column one is the number of live births to African American women 18 and older in your jurisdiction.

Column two is the 25 % goal for each jurisdiction.

Column three is the number of live births served by each BIH jurisdiction in 2003.

Column four is the difference between the 25% goal and the number served.

Column five divides the difference in column four by 3 to indicate the additional number of births each year for the next three years that need to be served to reach the 25% goal.

Column six gives the percentage of live births that were served by the jurisdiction in 2003.

Achieving the 25 percent goal will significantly deepen the quantity of lives touched. If you feel the data totals listed in column three do not accurately reflect the births of the client population served, please notify us and submit your supportive data.

First Time Moms

The earlier directive to serve 50 percent of First Time Moms has been suspended. This is cited in the fiscal year 2004-2005 MCAH Policy and Procedures, under Black Infant Health Program, #2.2.7.

Length of Stay

All clients entering the BIH Program **prior** to March 1, 2005 may receive services, where warranted, up to 24 months post-delivery. Clients entering the Program **on or after** March 1, 2005, will receive BIH services up to the index infant's first birthday or 12 months post delivery.

Local BIH Programs may extend services beyond 12 months to mothers with infants born due to prematurity, other pregnancy complications or justifiable needs due to extenuating circumstances. This will be done on a case-by-case basis. The extension is to provide supportive services to the family and to monitor the infant's appropriate weight/age adjustment up to 24 months post delivery.

General Discussion

We appreciate your rich history of coordinating and collaborating with local stakeholders and service providers. We encourage you to continue to maintain strong linkages and networks with your key and critical partners to assure timely access and acquisition of needed perinatal services and promote quality health care. We also encourage you to develop working agreements with Family PACT providers in your local area to assure the provision of comprehensive family planning services.

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Thank you for your continued efforts to eliminate Black infant morbidity and mortality in your respective areas.

If you have questions or need clarification on any of the above, please contact Janet Baisden, Public Health Social Work Consultant, at (916) 650-0380, or jbaisden@dhs.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Susann J. Steinberg, M.D., Chief
Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health/Office of Family Planning Branch

Enclosure

cc: Amy Krawiec, M.D.
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Programs and Policy Section Managers
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Black Infant Health Program Progress Toward Serving 25% of African American Live Births by BIH Jurisdiction

BIH Site	African American Resident Live Births To Women 18 Years of Age and Older in CY 2003	25% of African American Resident Live Births To Women 18 Years of Age and Older in CY 2003	Number of Total Live Births Served by the BIH Program in CY 2003 ¹	Difference Between 25% of African American Live Births in Jurisdiction and Number of Live Births Served by the BIH Program	Additional Births the BIH Program Needs to Serve Per Year Over a Three Year Period to Meet 25% Births Served by the BIH Program in CY 2003	Percent of African American Resident Live Births Served by the BIH Program in CY 2003
Alameda	2,416	604	90	514	171	4%
City of Berkeley	108	27	38	-11	-	35%
Contra Costa	1,068	267	93	174	58	9%
Fresno	743	186	102	84	28	14%
Kern	641	160	129	31	10	20%
Los Angeles	9,624	2,406	508	1,898	633	5%
City of Long Beach	999	250	73	177	59	7%
City of Pasadena	184	46	71	-25	-	39%
Riverside	1,324	331	84	247	82	6%
Sacramento	1,873	468	112	356	119	6%
San Bernardino	2,447	612	129	483	161	5%
San Diego	2,141	535	129	406	135	6%
San Francisco	600	150	61	89	30	10%
San Joaquin	654	164	148	16	5	23%
San Mateo	216	54	66	-12	-	31%
Santa Clara	520	130	83	47	16	16%
Solano	684	171	101	70	23	15%
TOTAL	26,242	6,561	2,017	4,544	1,531	8%

¹ Includes births to women entering the program post-partum and births to teens. Includes neonatal deaths.

Alameda county live births excludes the city of Berkeley; LA County live births excludes the cities of Long Beach and Pasadena. City zipcodes were determined by the Family Health Outcomes Project, UC San Francisco. African-American live births based upon maternal race/ethnicity, excludes Hispanics and persons of 2 or more races.